uprooting trees to make way for manioc and bananas. The problem is compounded by the demand on fuelwood to fire the mainly smallholder-run distilleries. This has led to a 44% loss of wooded areas between 1969 and 1974 and the food-producing lands are now under double threat. (Action for Development, UK, Feb 85) (245/85)

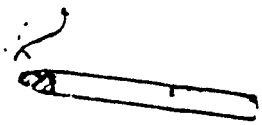
Curry spices found to be good killers of parasites

Spices like black pepper and cinnamon used in preparing curry in South Asian countries are effective in killing parasites, according to research conducted by a group of professors at the pharmaceutical department of Kanazawa University in Japan. Their research showed that the number of parasite carriers in Sri Lanka, where a large amount of spices are used in curry, is smaller than in African countries. In particular, those parasites cause such ailments as liver hypertrophy and deterioration of the eyesight. (Japan Times, Japan, 16.3.85) (246/85)

Smoking

Tobacco companies warned of IOCU's campaign

A major international business magazine has recently warned tobacco companies about the consumer-led campaign against their marketing practices. 'Tobacco MNCs are the latest target of the international consumer movement. Angry at the way cigarette makers promote their products, IOCU has formally launched its fourth network, the Action Group to Halt Advertising and Sponsorship by Tobacco Companies - AGHAST. Its first project will be a study that intends to show how the industry, despite claims to the contrary, is committed to increasing sales in LDCs. Executives should note that the focus will be on advertising and promotion techniques, such as the industry's increasing sponsorship of sports events.' (Business International, USA, 8.3.85) (247/85)



Cheating the smoking machines

A year ago the Barclay cigarette manufacturers managed to postpone the distribution of the February issue of Test Aankoop, a Belgian consumer magazine, because it carried a warning about Barclay's advertising. While a claim for damages is still before the Belgian courts, action against Barclay continues elsewhere. In Geneva, a cantonal court banned the sale of Barclay packages claiming: '1 mg tar, 0,2 mg nicotine' because the claim was fraudulent. The Swiss Federal High Court has now affirmed that Barclay's special filter was probably specifically designed to falsify the objective testing by standard smoking machines. (Test-Aankoop, Belgium, Feb 85) (248/85)

Ban on tobacco advertising and sports sponsorship proposed in UK

A Bill to ban tobacco advertising and sports sponsorship will be introduced in the UK Lords by Lord Pitt, president-elect of the British Medical Association. The BMA, in its campaign against smoking, has also launched a report which shows that, contrary to the tobacco industry's claim, advertising does encourage people to smoke, particularly children. And sponsorship associates sporting prowess and cultural excellence with cigarettes in ways that self-regulated codes of conduct forbid. The report, Cigarette Advertising and Smoking: A Review of the Evidence, by Simon Chapman, an Australian researcher working with IOCU on its AGHAST campaign against tobacco promotion, is available free from the BMA at Tavistock Square, London WC1. (Guardian, Times, UK, 9.3.85) (249/85)

'Dying for a cigarette'

In a letter to the Guardian Simon Chapman, who is working with IOCU's campaign against smoking promotion, AGHAST, describes how, as the famine in North Africa developed in 1984, British tobacco companies were at work in the region, reaping the bounty of their aggressive promotional campaigns. He lists some of the imports of expensive tailor-made cigarettes from Britain from January to September 1984, eg 541 million to the Sudan, 153 million to Ethiopia. (Guardian, 21.2.85) (250/85)

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/fkhl0000